



BARAKAT

MIRROR OF ALL AGES & CULTURES



MASTERPIECES FROM THE INDUS VALLEY

Paintented vessels with animals

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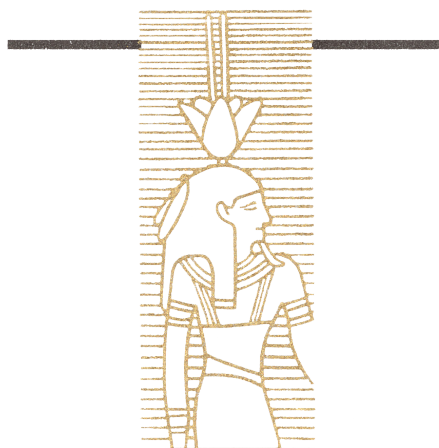
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INDUS VALLEY CIVILISATION



Foreword

Ever since humans first started drawing on cave walls, the animal world served as an endless source of fascination. Since humans developed the capacity for symbolic thinking, various ancient cultures have felt the need to represent the world surrounding them in an attempt to make sense of all its beauty and variety. The desire to assign symbolism to animals inhabiting landscapes I believe connects human cultures across time.

Depictions of animals in art remind us not only of themselves, but also of the qualities and traits we assign to them. Artists depicting animals cast bridges across divides of human vs non-human interaction, enabling humans to reconnect with the landscapes they inhabit. My fascination with animals began at a really young age when I started collecting artefacts representing animals from different times and places. Over the years, I have collected painted pottery, clay sculptures, carved stone, and sculpture in precious metal representing animals. The masterpieces selected for this catalogue show the link between understanding our world and the animal world.

The terracotta vessels from the Indus Valley Civilisation representing local fauna stand as a testament to man's bond with his natural environment. Vivid images of stylised animals show the incredible biodiversity of this area and the meaningful relationship between man and nature which I have tried to make sense of in my art and through the artefacts I have collected.

Fayez Barakat
President

HISTORY

The Indus Valley Civilisation flourished in the northern region of the Indian northwest subcontinent between c. 7000 - c. 600 BC. Its location, in the valley of the Indus River, was an area of flourishing wildlife and domestic species. The fertile floodplain of the Valley and the natural abundance of its resources found their way in artistic forms, such as terracotta with animal figures. One part of the animals in this collection are depicted in a stylised manner and others in more naturalistic detail, showing the incredible faunal biodiversity of the area, most notably visible in representations of Asiatic lions and cheetahs, cattle, red jungle fowls and river fishes. Common depictions in this collection are large herbivores, known as the Himalayan ibex, the Sindh ibex and the Chiltan ibex. Moreover, the capturing or domestication of animals is evident from these artefacts, which show collars and leashes around the animals' necks.

The society of the Indus Valley was primarily made of artisans, farmers, and merchants. It developed the wheel, carts drawn by cattle, flat-bottomed boats to transport trade goods, and the sail. They understood and made use of irrigation techniques and canals, various farming implements, and established different areas for cattle grazing and crops. Fertility rituals may have been observed for a full harvest as evidenced by a number of bronze and terracotta animal figurines, amulets, and statuettes. The Indus Valley Civilisation traded with Egypt, Mesopotamia and China and developed a writing system to control commercial activities, known as Indus Script or Harappan Script, which is yet to be deciphered. Among the thousands of artifacts discovered at the sites are small, soapstone seals a little over an inch (3 cm) in diameter, which archaeologists interpret to have been used for personal identification in trade. Like the cylinder seals of Mesopotamia, these seals are thought to have been used to sign contracts, authorize land sales, and authenticate point-of-origin, shipment, and receipt of goods in long-distance trade. The level of artistic skill reached by this society is also visible in numerous finds of statuary, ceramics, tiles and jewelry. The material evidence from the Indus Valley in this collection is a testament to the accomplishments of this early urban society.

The two most archaeologically significant and best-known cities from where the artefacts in this collection originate from are those of Harappa and Mohenjo-daro, which flourished as hubs of trade and urbanisation around 2600 BC, and are now located in modern-day Pakistan. The cities had populations of between 40,000-



Indus Vessel (Detail) - I.8169



Indus Vessel (Detail) - I.7917

50,000 inhabitants, an impressive estimate for early urban sites. In particular, the city of Harappa spread over 370 acres (150 hectares) of small, brick houses with flat roofs made of clay. There was a citadel, walls, and the streets were laid out in a grid pattern clearly demonstrating a high degree of skill in urban planning. Houses in both Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro had flush toilets, a sewer system, and fixtures on either side of the streets which were part of an elaborate drainage system. Devices known from Persia as 'wind catchers' were attached to the roofs of some buildings, providing 'air conditioning' for the home or administrative offices and, at Mohenjo-daro, there was a great public bath, surrounded by a courtyard, with steps leading down into it. As other sites were unearthed, the same degree of sophistication and skill came to light, as well as the understanding that all of these cities had been pre-planned. Unlike those of other cultures which usually developed from smaller, rural communities, the cities of the Indus Valley Civilisation had been thought-out and purposefully constructed prior to full habitation. Further, they all exhibited conformity to a single vision, which further suggests the possible presence of a strong central government with an efficient bureaucracy that could plan, fund, and build such cities. Other cities, such as Ganeriwala, Lothal, and Dholavira, stand as testament to the hundreds of other cities built throughout the land.

The Indus Valley Civilisation declined around 1800 BC, and scholars debate which factors triggered the progressive abandonment of the cities. One theory suggested that a nomadic, Indo-European population called the Aryans invaded and conquered the Indus Valley Civilisation, though more recent evidence tends to contradict this claim. Scholars now believe that the collapse of the Indus Valley Civilisation was caused by climate change. The climate grew cooler and drier, and a tectonic event may have diverted or disrupted river systems, which were the lifelines of this civilisation. Despite the society's decline, the Indus Valley Civilisation is referenced as one of the three greatest of antiquity alongside Egypt and Mesopotamia, and future excavations will almost surely elevate its standing even higher. The story of the Indus Valley Civilisation is best given with the archaeological excavations of its cities in the first half of the 19th century AD and the finding of an impressive array of material culture. We have selected astonishing masterpieces from this civilisation which attest to the culture's vast accomplishments and high level of technology and sophistication which have been increasingly coming to light and gaining greater attention.

CHRONOLOGY

The discover of the Indus Vallery Civilisation, or Harappan Civilisation, in 1829 AD was the first indication that proved the existence of such civilisation in India.

Thanks to these excavation sites, archaeologists were able to recognize approximate dates from the early stages to the decline and fall. The chronology is based on the physical evidence from the sites but also from the trade contacts with Mesopotamia and Egypt.

- Pre-Harappan – c. 7000 - c. 5500 BCE: The Neolithic period is characterised by agricultural development, domestication of animals and plants, and production of tools and ceramics.
- Early Harappan – c. 5500-2800 BCE: During this period docks, ports, and warehouses are built near waterways by people living in small villages close to the site. These new architectures opened the Indus Valley population to create established trades with Mesopotamia, Egypt, and possibly with China.
- Mature Harappan – c. 2800 - c. 1900 BCE: This period is remarked by the construction of great cities and the fast development of urbanisation. Cities like Harappa and Mohenjo-daro start to expand from the 2600 BCE. From this point onward the development projects of the land continues with the construction of thousands cities, all following the same architectural model of cities like Ganeriwala, Lothal, and Dholavira.
- Late Harappan – c. 1900 - c. 1500 BCE: During this time the civilisation starts to decline. The reasons why this happened are still unknown. However, it coincides with the Aryan migration (whose ethnicity is often associated with the Iranian Persians). On the other hand, physical evidence of climate change (such as flooding, drought, and famine) and/or a loss of trade relations with neighbouring territories, might also contributed to the decline.
- Post Harappan – c. 1500 - c. 600 BCE: As a consequence, cities were empty, abandoned, and people moved to South. When Cyrus II (the Great, R. C. 550-530 BCE) invaded India in 530 BCE, the Indus Valley civilization has already fallen.



Double-Baluster Cylindrical Vessel - LO.845



MASTERPIECES





Vessel with wide rim, and painted with colourful birds interspaced with geometric decorations.

This type of fired clay vessel was mostly produced at the site of Merhgarh in Baluchistan. From here and other centres, they were traded far and wide throughout Baluchistan, from the borders of the Indus Valley to south-eastern Iran.

Indus Valley Terracotta Vessel - LO.1265

Origin: Western India

Circa: 3500 BC to 2000 BC

Dimensions: 4" (10.2cm) high x 6.25" (15.9cm) wide

£40,000.00



Vessel with wide rim and painted with colourful birds interspaced with geometric decorations.

This type of fired clay vessel was mostly produced at the site of Merhgarh in Baluchistan. From here and other centres, they were traded far and wide throughout Baluchistan, from the borders of the Indus Valley to south-eastern Iran.

Double-Baluster Cylindrical Vessel - LO.845

Origin: India

Circa: 2500 BC to 1500 BC

Dimensions: 16.25" (41.3cm) high

£48,000.00







Jar with slightly everted sides, flattened shoulders and upright neck with everted rim.

The body is divided in horizontal registers, the uppermost with an appliqué wave contour, above and below felines and vegetation are outlined in black.

Indus Valley Painted Jar - LO.837

Origin: Central Asia

Circa: 2500 BC to 2000 BC

Dimensions: 6.5" (16.5cm) high

£32,000.00



Indus Valley Terracotta Vessel - LO.1329

Origin: Pakistan/Western India

Circa: 3500 BC to 2000 BC

Dimensions: 11.1" (28.2cm) high x 12.9" (32.8cm) wide

£45,000.00







Indus Valley Terracotta Vessel - I.0100

Origin: Pakistan/Western India

Circa: 3500 BC to 2000 BC

Dimensions: 5" (12.75cm) high x 5" (12.75cm) wide

£24,000.00



Painted vessel representing a bull.

The vivid use of colours in the tones of yellow and red for the decorations are incredibly well-preserved, making this artefact a masterpiece of artistic skilful accomplishment.

Indus Valley Terracotta Vessel. - LO.1287

Origin: Western India

Circa: 3500 BC to 2000 BC

Dimensions: 6.1" (15.5cm) high x 7.50" (19.1cm) wide

£48,000.00







Painted terracotta jar with wide black rim and painted with birds, most likely chickens, all-round the form. The latter are framed by horizontal geometric black motifs.

Painted Earthenware Vessel - SF175

Origin: Central Asia

Circa: 3000 BC to 2000 BC

Dimensions: 7" (17.8cm) high x 7.25" (18.4cm) wide

£15,000.00



Painted terracotta jar decorated with zoomorphic - most likely chickens - and geometric designs.

The use of red and black pigments stands out from this masterpiece for its astonishing preservation through time and as a testament to the high level of artistic skill reached by this civilisation.

Indus Valley Terracotta Vessel Decorated with Zoomorphic and Geometric Designs - SF139

Origin: Central Asia

Circa: 2500 BC to 2000 BC

Dimensions: 6.6" (16.8cm) high x 6.75" (17.1cm) wide

£28,000.00





This Indus Valley painted pottery storage jar is important due to its unusually large size and quality of decoration. It consists of linear and figural designs with brown and black pigments.

Jars of this kind were believed to have been used for storing grains. Most of them were found in large stone buildings used as warehouses. Five scrolls of miniature depictions of an ibex or gazelle run at the top of the vessel giving the object an animated feeling. The gazelle or wild goat motifs and trees are interesting representations of local fauna, as well as remarkable examples of brush painting used by potters during this period.

Indus Vessel - I.7917

Origin: India/Pakistan

Circa: 2700 BC to 1700 BC

Dimensions: 19.3" (49.0cm) high

£240,000.00









Large painted vessel with black horizontal geometric decorations and local fauna, such as river fishes and the Himalayan ibex.

Large Indus Valley Vessel - AM.0232

Origin: Central Asia

Circa: 3000 BC to 2000 BC

Dimensions: 19.3" (49.0cm) high

£180,000.00



Jar with slightly everted sides, flattened shoulders and upright neck with everted rim. It displays horizontal geometric decorations in black and red, and an applied wave-like relief.

This piece represents small wild goats throughout and felines.



Indus Valley Painted Terracotta Vessel - SF.140

Origin: Central Asia

Circa: 2500 BC to 2000 BC

Dimensions: 5.4" (13.7cm) high x 6.25" (15.9cm) wide

£45,000.00





Painted terracotta jar decorated with zoomorphic and geometric designs.

The use of red and black pigments stands out from this masterpiece for the astonishing preservation through time and as a testament to the high level of artistic skill reached by this civilisation. River fish and a Himalayan ibex are represented in great detail.

Indus Vessel - I.8982

Origin: India/Pakistan

Circa: 2700 BC to 1700 BC

Dimensions: 19.3" (49.0cm) high

£86,000.00



Indus Vessel - I.8832

Origin: India/Pakistan

Circa: 2700 BC to 1700 BC

Dimensions: 4.25" (10.8cm) high x 7.1" (18.0cm) wide

£24,000.00





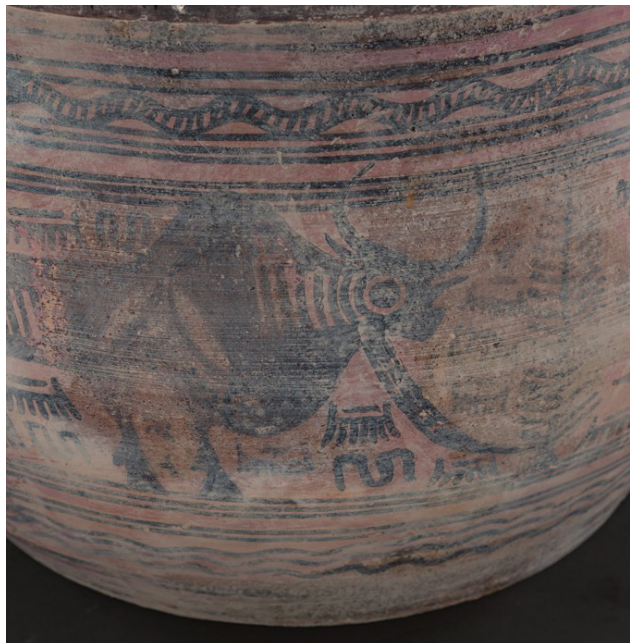
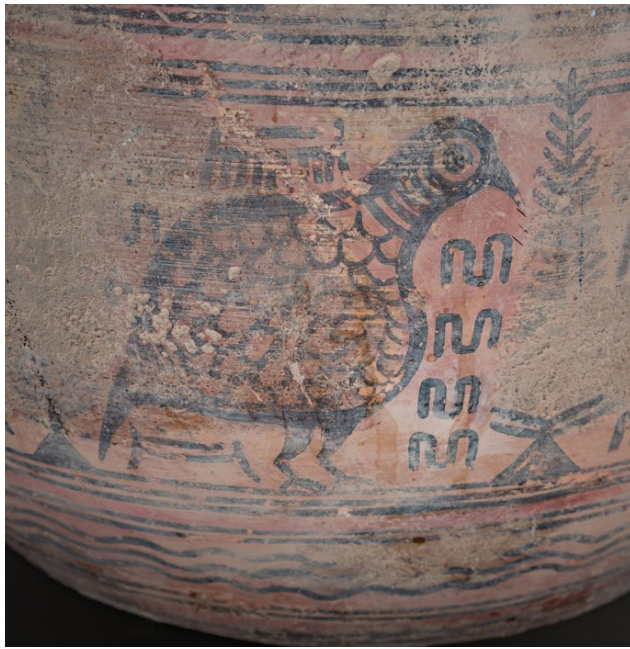
Large Indus Valley Vessel - AM.0229

Origin: Central Asia

Circa: 3000 BC to 2000 BC

Dimensions: 15.8" (40.1cm) high x 20.2" (51.3cm) wide

£40,000.00



Indus Valley “Nal” Painted Canister - LO.838

Origin: Central Asia

Circa: 2800 BC to 2600 BC

Dimensions: 4.5” (11.4cm) high x 6.6” (16.8cm) wide

£24,000.00





VESSELS





Indus Vessel - I.8201

Origin: India/Pakistan
Circa: 2700 BC to 1700 BC
Medium: terracotta

£14,000.00





Indus Valley Terracotta Bowl - SF.191

Origin: Central Asia

Circa: 3000 BC to 2000 BC

Dimensions: 4.25" (10.8cm) high x 7.1" (18.0cm) wide

£25,000.00



Indus Valley Vessel - LK.027

Origin: Pakistan/Western India

Circa: 3500 BC to 2000 BC

Dimensions: 6.9" (17.5cm) high x 5.1" (13.0cm) wide

£15,000.00



Vase with globular lower body, and a cylinder upper body with a short rim.

The surface is painted with zoomorphic motifs of red jungle fowls.

The body is divided by painted registers of horizontal geometric motifs.



Indus Valley Pot - LK.040

Origin: Pakistan/Western India

Circa: 3500 BC to 2000 BC

Dimensions: 5.1" (13.0cm) high x 5.5" (14.0cm) wide

£9,800.00







Indus Vessel - I.8782

Origin: India/Pakistan

Circa: 2700 BC to 1700 BC

Dimensions: 3.4" (7cm) high x 4" (10cm) wide

£9,000.00



Indus Vessel - I.8782

Origin: India/Pakistan

Circa: 2700 BC to 1700 BC

Dimensions: 5.1" (13.0cm) high x 5.5" (14.0cm) wide

£9,000.00





Indus Valley Terracotta Bowl with Fish Motif - SF.187

Origin: Central Asia

Circa: 3000 BC to 2000 BC

Dimensions: 4.75" (12.1cm) high x 7.75" (19.7cm) wide

£6,800.00





Indus Valley Terracotta Bowl Decorated with Geometric and Zoomorphic Designs- SF.178

Origin: Central Asia

Circa: 3000 BC to 2000 BC

Dimensions: 3" (7.6cm) high x 5.75" (14.6cm) wide

£9,000.00



Indus Valley Pot - AM.0007

Origin: India/Pakistan
Circa: 3000 BC to 2000 BC
Dimensions: 7.5" (18.5cm) high

£2,000.00



Indus Vessel - I.8189

Origin: India/Pakistan

Circa: 2700 BC to 1700 BC

Medium: terracotta

Dimensions: 3" (7.6cm) high x 5.75" (14.6cm) wide

£9,000.00





Indus Valley Terracotta Vessel - SF190

Origin: Central Asia

Circa: 3000 BC to 2000 BC

Dimensions: 4.25" (10.8cm) high x 7.5" (19.1cm) wide

£8,000.00





Indus Vessel - I.8760

Origin: India/Pakistan

Circa: 2700 BC to 1700 BC

Dimensions: 3.5" (8cm) high x 5.5" (13cm) wide

£3,000.00



Indus Vessels - I.8616

Origin: Indus Valley

Circa: 3000 BC to 2000 BC

Dimensions: 4" (10cm) high x 6.5" (16cm) wide

£18,000.00







Indus Valley Civilization Terracotta Vessel - LO.507

Origin: Pakistan/Western India

Circa: 3500 BC to 2500 BC

Dimensions: 4.5" (11.4cm) high

£18,000.00



Kulli Painted Globular Jar - LO.1204

Origin: Pakistan, Baluchistan

Circa: 2600 BC to 2000 BC

Dimensions: 5.5" (14.0cm) high x 4.75" (12.1cm) wide

£18,000.00







Indus Vessel - I.176

Origin: Indus Valley

Circa: 3000 BC to 2000 BC

Dimensions: 3.4" (7cm) high x 4" (10cm) wide

£4,000.00





Indus Vessel - I.8825

Origin: India/Pakistan

Circa: 2700 BC to 1700 BC

Dimensions: 4.25" (10.8cm) high x 7.5" (19.1cm) wide

£5,400.00





Indus Vessel - I.8772

Origin: India/Pakistan

Circa: 2700 BC to 1700 BC

Dimensions: 4.25" (10.8cm) high x 7.5" (19.1cm) wide

£8,000.00





Tall cylinder shaped vessel with narrow base and wide rim.

The body displays a black representation of a red jungle fowl incredibly preserved.

Indus Valley Pot - AM.0006

Origin: India/Pakistan

Circa: 3000 BC to 2000 BC

Dimensions: 8" (20.3cm) high

£28,000.00



Indus Vessels - I.8681

Origin: Indus Valley

Circa: 3000 BC to 2000 BC

Dimensions: 8" (20.3cm) high

£5,000.00



Indus Vessels - I.8667

Origin: Indus Valley
Circa: 3000 BC to 2000 BC

£4,000.00



Indus Valley Terracotta Vessel with Zoomorphic Decoration - SF.184

Origin: Central Asia

Circa: 3000 BC to 2000 BC

Dimensions: 3.25" (8.3cm) high x 5.75" (14.6cm) wide

£14,000.00



Indus Valley Pot - LK.040

Origin: Pakistan/Western India

Circa: 3500 BC to 2000 BC

Dimensions: 5.1" (13.0cm) high x 5.5" (14.0cm) wide

£9,800.00



Indus Valley Terracotta Vessel - LO.1270

Origin: Central Asia

Circa: 3500 BC to 2000 BC

Dimensions: 5.1" (13.0cm) high x 6.5" (16.5cm)
wide

£4,500.00



Indus Vessel - I.180

Origin: India/Pakistan

Circa: 2700 BC to 1700 BC

Dimensions: 3.4" (7cm) high x 4" (10cm) wide

£8,000.00





Indus Vessel - I.8954

Origin: India/Pakistan

Circa: 2700 BC to 1700 BC

Dimensions: 3.5" (9cm) high x 4" (10cm) wide

£6,000.00





Indus Valley Civilization Terracotta Vessel - LO.505

Origin: Pakistan/Western India

Circa: 3500 BC to 3000 BC

Dimensions: 2.75" (7.0cm) high

£5,000.00





Indus Vessel - I.8822

Origin: India/Pakistan

Circa: 2700 BC to 1700 BC

Dimensions: 4.25" (10.8cm) high x 7.5" (19.1cm) wide

£24,000.00





Painted Terracotta Vessel with Fish Motif - SF.163

Origin: Central Asia

Circa: 3000 BC to 2000 BC

Dimensions: 3.75" (9.5cm) high x 7.5" (19.1cm) wide

£4,500.00





Indus Vessel - I.8810

Origin: India/Pakistan

Circa: 2700 BC to 1700 BC

Dimensions: 5.1" (13.0cm) high x 5.5" (14.0cm) wide

£15,000.00





Indus Valley Terracotta Vase with Painted Zoomorphic Decoration - SF185

Origin: Central Asia

Circa: 3000 BC to 2000 BC

Dimensions: 5.25" (13.3cm) high x 3.60" (9.1cm) wide

£8,000.00





Indus Vessel - I.320

Origin: Indus Valley

Circa: 3000 BC to 2000 BC

Dimensions: 4.1" (10.4cm) high x 5.7" (14.5cm) wide

£3,000.00





Indus Valley Pot - AM.0002

Origin: India/Pakistan

Circa: 3000 BC to 2000 BC

Dimensions: 4.1" (10.4cm) high x 5.7" (14.5cm) wide

£6,000.00



Indus Vessel - I. 8844

Origin: India/Pakistan

Circa: 2700 BC to 1700 BC

Dimensions: 3.25" (8.3cm) high x 5.75" (14.6cm) wide

£15,000.00



Indus Vessel - I.8840

Origin: India/Pakistan

Circa: 2700 BC to 1700 BC

Dimensions: 5" (12.2cm) high x 5.75" (14.6cm) wide

£15,000.00



Indus Vessel - I.8836

Origin: India/Pakistan

Circa: 2700 BC to 1700 BC

Dimensions: 5" (12.75cm) high x 6.50" (15.85cm) wide

£15,000.00

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